

ETON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

ACTING
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J. W. WEBB,
M.B., B.S.(Lond.), D.P.H.(Lond.)

For the Year 1946


including the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

A. W. G. CORNER,
M.S.I.A.



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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health (Temporary):

J. W. WEBB, M.B., B.S.,(Lond.), D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

A. W. G. CORNER (Cert.R.S.I.), M.S.I.A.,
Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

A. H. V. MARSDEN, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.,
Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

M. HODGKINS, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.,
Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

J. FORREST, M.S.I.A.,
Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Rodent Officer :

J. R. SNELL.

General Assistants :

H. W. FRY.

I. D. PRESTON.

Clerk :

Miss M. MARLEY (Temp.).

Junior Clerk :

Miss P. ELSTON, (Temp.).

ETON RURAL DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year 1946.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and General
Purposes Committee.*

LADIES and GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my annual report for the year 1946, which is drawn up on the lines indicated by the Ministry of Health.

The year 1946 was, on the whole, satisfactory from the point of view of the public health. The rise in the infant mortality rate was disturbing, as this figure is considered to be an indication of the general health of the public. An analysis of the causes of death will be found later in the report. The statistical particulars of infectious disease remain fairly constant and it is noteworthy that no case of cerebro-spinal fever or of diphtheria occurred during the year and only one case of infantile paralysis. The measles epidemic affected mainly Burnham, Horton and Datchet and followed the usual cycle of such epidemics. Influenza did not reach major proportions throughout the year.

Two major events occurred during 1946. The first was the launching of a scheme for main drainage throughout the district. Many parts of the district have become semi-urbanised with housing estates, shops and industrial premises, and for these particularly the old-fashioned methods of cesspool and pail closet drainage, suitable for rural areas, has become out of date, unsatisfactory and costly. Subsoil water rises to within a foot of the surface in some parts of this district, and in areas such as Denham, the constant overflowing of cesspools has become an ever-recurring nuisance and a deterrent to the maintenance of a high standard of public health. It is thus encouraging to know that plans have been prepared and deposited with the Ministry

of Health which should eventually lead to an improvement of these conditions.

The second event was the invasion of unoccupied or partially-occupied army camps by unauthorised people to whom the name of "squatters" has been given. This district, in common with the rest of the country, is suffering from a shortage of housing accommodation and this illegal act was committed by persons living in housing conditions which they felt to be intolerable. The emergency sanitary problems immediately created were handled effectively by the sanitary department and the camps have now been taken over on a semi-permanent basis as emergency dwelling places.

The Public Health Department has maintained its level of industry and efficiency throughout the year and I gratefully acknowledge my appreciation of the loyal and harmonious co-operation of the staff.

I am also indebted to the Chairman and Members of this Committee for their interest and support, which has given me great encouragement throughout the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. W. WEBB.

SECTION I.

STATISTICS

Area (Land and Inland Water)	35,500 acres
Population (Registrar General's Estimate Mid-Year 1946)	39,020
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1946 according to Rate Books	10,629
Rateable Value (1946)	£410,038
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£1,605

TABLE I.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.

Total	705	Male 348	Female 357
Legitimate	645	Male 320	Female 325
Illegitimate	60	Male 28	Female 32
Birth rate per 1,000 population			18.06
National rate			19.1

Still Births.

Total	13	Male 7	Female 6
Legitimate	12	Male 7	Female 5
Illegitimate	1	Male 0	Female 1
Still birth rate per 1,000 population			0.33
National rate			11.5

Deaths.

Total	393	Male 191	Female 202
Death rate per 1,000 population			10.1
National rate			11.5

Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth: —

(a) From sepsis	0
(b) From other causes	1

Death rates from Puerperal Causes per 1,000 Total Births.

(a) From sepsis	.....	0	National rate	0.18
(b) From other causes	.....	1.4	National rate	1.06
(c) Total	.....	1.4	National rate	1.24

Deaths of Infants under One Year of age.

Total	.....	32	Male	16	Female	16
Legitimate	.....	30	Male	15	Female	15
Illegitimate	.....	2	Male	1	Female	1

Death rate of Infants under One Year of age.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	45.4
National rate	43.0

Deaths from Measles (all ages).

Male	0	Female	0	Total	0
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Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).

Male	0	Female	0	Total	0
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Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2).

Male	1	Female	0	Total	1
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Population.

According to the Registrar General's estimate for mid-1946, the population is now 39,020, an increase of 870. There is reason to believe that the actual increase may be considerably greater. It is difficult to reconcile this modest increase with a much larger figure shown by other available statistics based on registration records. It is to be hoped that a new Census will shortly be undertaken to clarify this matter.

Births.

The birth rate has risen from last year's figure of 17.2 to 18.06 and is slightly lower than the national rate of 19.1.

Infant Mortality.

The infant mortality rate has risen steeply from 24.3 in 1945 to 45.4 and is now above the national rate of 43. Statistics are often misleading, particularly when the number involved is small, but as this figure is a significant one in relation to the health of the district, I have made a closer investigation into the cause of death in infants under one. The actual number of deaths were 32. Five occurred in hospitals within the district (3 at Colinswood and 2 at Iver Cottage Hospital), but were not residents within the district. Of the 27

remaining, 17 were neo-natal deaths (i.e., deaths occurring within the first four weeks of life) and the certified causes were as follows: —

Prematurity	.....	.....	7
Congenital Defect	.....	.....	3
Birth Injury	.....	.....	2
Bronchopneumonia	.....	.....	3
Diarrhoea	.....	.....	1
Melaena	.....	.....	1

Seven of these infants did not survive for 24 hours. Much attention has recently been drawn to the loss of life in prematurely-born infants. The need for increased antenatal supervision of the mother both as regards her diet and her habits and the necessity for immediate specialised care of the baby in a hospital have been stressed as the means of avoiding this loss of infant life. The death in babies of 1 month to 1 year were due to: —

Bronchopneumonia	.....	.....	5 cases
Influenza	.....	.....	1
Accident	.....	.....	2
Congenital Defect	.....	.....	2

Infants are particularly susceptible to infection and overcrowding increases the risk of bronchopneumonia in the young. It is worth noting that of the 8 babies dying of pneumonia, 5 were of gypsy or vagrant parentage. The two accidental deaths were due to the inhalation of vomit into the lungs. This accident may well occur to the untended baby, but I have no evidence to show that such was the case in these two.

From this short and necessarily limited analysis, the indications are that the rise in the death rate of infants under one in this district is in part due to an increased number of neo-natal deaths, with prematurity as a primary cause and to the exposure of those of tender years to infection in unhygienic surroundings.

Deaths.

The number of deaths in the area was 393, a decrease of 20 on the total for 1945.

There is no significant change in the causes of death, the highest number being as usual from cancer, heart disease and cerebral haemorrhage—the last named being in many cases the fatal last illness of the aged. Insignificant increases have occurred in deaths from road traffic accidents and violence, while there is a fall in deaths from bronchitis. The death rate for the district has again fallen and is now 10.1, compared with the national rate of 11.5.

TABLE II.

Causes of Death in the Eton Rural District during 1946.

							Male	Female
						All Causes	191	202
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—
2.	Measles	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—
6.	Influenza	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	6	6
7.	Encephalitis Lethargica	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—
8.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—
9.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	5	5
10.	Other Tuberculosis Diseases	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—
11.	Syphilitic Diseases	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	—	—
12.	Poliomyelitis and Encephalitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—
13.	Cancer, Malignant Disease	.....	.....	.....	.....	38	36	36
14.	Diabetes	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—	2
15.	Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	.....	.....	.....	.....	22	31	31
16.	Heart Diseases	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—
17.	Other Circulatory Diseases	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	4	4
18.	Bronchitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	5	5
19.	Pneumonia (all forms)	.....	.....	.....	.....	11	12	12
20.	Other Respiratory Diseases	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	5	5
21.	Duodenal and Gastric Ulcer	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	1	1
22.	Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	—	—
23.	Appendicitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	1
24.	Digestive Diseases	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	5	5
25.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	.....	.....	.....	.....	8	3	3
26.	Puerperal Sepsis	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—
27.	Other Puerperal Causes	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—	1
28.	Premature Birth	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	6	6
29.	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, and Infant Diseases	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	5	5
30.	Road Traffic Accidents	.....	.....	.....	.....	7	3	3
31.	Suicide	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—	1
32.	Other Violence	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	6	6
33.	All other Causes	.....	.....	.....	.....	18	13	13

SECTION II.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Staff.

Particulars of the Public Health Officers of the District are given on the inner side of the cover of this book. Mr. J. Forrest has joined the staff as additional Sanitary Inspector, and Mr. I. Preston has returned from war service to the general staff.

Laboratory Facilities.

Laboratory specimens have been examined at the Slough Town Hall Public Health Laboratory. The following specimens have been examined during the year:—

Specimens examined in the Town Hall Laboratory, Slough, during the year 1946.

Eton Rural District Council:—

Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli	66
Miscellaneous swabs	30
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli	38
Faeces for Typhoid, Dysentery, etc.	11
Urine examinations	18
Blood Counts	31
Blood Cultures	1
Blood Widal's	3
Milk samples	69
Water samples	75
Ice Cream samples (as from July 1946)	11

Ambulance Facilities.

Ambulance work in the district is carried out by the St. John's Ambulance Brigade from their headquarters at "Serena," Burlington Road, Slough. An ambulance for the removal of infectious cases is stationed at the Isolation Hospital.

Isolation Hospital.

Patients suffering from infectious disease are admitted to the Cippenham Isolation Hospital. 64 patients were admitted from this district during 1946, all of whom recovered.

Maternity Services.

All maternity and antenatal work is conducted by the Bucks County Council in this area.

Supply of Insulin.

Under Section 177 of the Public Health Act, a local authority may provide a temporary supply of medicine to the poorer inhabitants. 3 persons are receiving this assistance in the form of free supplies of insulin for the treatment of diabetes. An enquiry into the applicant's income and circumstances is made in the case of all persons requesting this help.

Immunisation.

Immunisation and re-immunisation continues to be carried out in schools by this authority as well as in the child welfare centres by the Bucks County Council. Of the 21 schools in the district, 12 schools have over 90% of the children immunised. These are: —

Dorney County Primary	.....	.....	.....	100%
New Denham County Primary	.....	.....	.....	99%
Hollybush Voluntary Primary	.....	.....	.....	98%
Stoke Poges County Primary	.....	.....	.....	98%
Gerrards Cross Voluntary Primary	.....	.....	.....	97%
Dropmore County Primary	.....	.....	.....	97%
East Burnham Voluntary Primary	.....	.....	.....	97%
Denham County Primary	.....	.....	.....	96%
Langley County Primary	.....	.....	.....	94%
Datchet Voluntary Primary	.....	.....	.....	94%
Burnham Voluntary Primary	.....	.....	.....	93.7%
St. Anthony's Voluntary Primary	.....	.....	.....	92.1%

5 schools have between 80 and 90% immunised, 2 between 70 and 80% and 2 between 50 and 70%. No school has less than 54% of immunised children. Although the national rate of Diphtheria notifications has fallen in the last three years, it is satisfactory to note that for the first time for ten years no case of Diphtheria has occurred in Eton Rural District during the year.

SECTION III.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

There are five water companies undertaking the provision of water in this district, namely: —

1. Amersham, Beaconsfield & District Water Company.
2. Burnham, Dorney & Hitcham Waterworks Co.
3. Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co.
4. Slough Borough Council Water Co.
5. South West Suburban Co.

The sources of supply for all these undertakings except the last named are wells and boreholes in chalk. The South West Suburban Co. draws water from the river Thames. The table below shows the number of dwelling houses on main supply in each parish. The figure in the end column indicates the water undertaking listed above.

Parish.		Estimated no. of houses.	Estimated no. without mains.	% without mains.	Water undertaking.
Burnham	.....	1543	19	1.2	2
Datchet	.....	913	21	2.3	2
Denham	.....	1267	7	0.55	3
Dorney	.....	157	20	12.7	2
Farnham Royal		620	1	0.16	2 & 4
Fulmer	.....	145	2	1.3	3 & 4
Gerrards Cross		1058	—	—	1 & 3
Hedgerley	.....	148	5	3.4	2 & 3
Horton	.....	248	31	12.5	3 & 4
Iver	.....	2283	9	0.39	3 & 4
Stoke Poges	.....	601	5	0.83	4
Taplow	.....	418	27	6.4	2
Wexham	.....	294	14	4.76	4
Wraysbury	.....	934	522	55.9	3

Plans have been prepared and submitted for the extension of the water mains at Wraysbury.

At Taplow, the existing water supply has been partly afforded in the past by a private undertaking. This has been taken over, reorganised and extended by The Burnham, Dorney & Hitcham Waterworks Co. A few of the large houses in Taplow neighbourhood have their own private water supply.

Frequent samples have been taken from the 31 houses in Horton on well supply and so far the water has been found to be of good quality. There remain a further 105 houses in the district for whom no provision of main water has as yet been made. This amounts to 1.08% of the number of inhabited houses. In most cases, these are isolated cottages located at considerable distance from main supplies and it would not be feasible during this time of labour and material shortages to extend mains for the benefit of one or two houses where the well supply is satisfactory.

The supply was adequate in quantity throughout the year. Samples of water from the various undertakings were taken regularly and were found to be of good quality. Water samples from wells at Wraysbury were found to be unsatisfactory and schemes were put forward for the extension of mains in these cases. An isolated house at Wraysbury was found to have an unsatisfactory sample and arrangements were made for the temporary chlorination of the water.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There are 4 sewerage works in this district at Burnham, South Iver, North Iver and Gerrards Cross. These receive the sewage from 4,272 houses. A few additional properties drain into the Slough Borough Council Sewerage works and a small number of Slough properties drain into this district's Burnham Sewerage works. 5,592 houses are on cesspool drainage and 765 have pail closets only, with a cesspool for the reception of waste water. The majority of houses have single individual cesspool, but in some cases groups of 2, 4 or more houses drain into a common cesspool. A working-class house is usually provided with a cesspool capable of containing 750 galls. and with overloaded drains may take up to 900 galls. of liquid. They are emptied by the Council at the request of the house owner once a month.

This means that the consumption of water per *family* must not exceed 30 gallons per day if the cesspool is not to overflow. This amount is inadequate. Many of the cesspools leak, and where the subsoil water is not high this probably prevents overflow. During wet weather and where the level of the subsoil water rises and exerts pressure from without inwards, the cesspool becomes partially filled

with soil water within a day or two of emptying. In houses with extensive grounds the difficulties are overcome by constructing additional cesspools, but in the housing estates where each house has only a limited amount of land attached there is constant trouble from overflowing cesspools.

These briefly-stated facts, laid in detail before the Council by the Public Health Committee, have encouraged the Council in its intention to proceed with the adoption of a scheme for the extension of main drainage throughout the district, pursuant to the Rural Water and Sewerage Act, 1944.

Public Cleansing.

During 1946, 9,681 emptyings of cesspools were done and 17,294 loads were carried. The mileage covered was 99,473. All these figures show an increase on the work done in 1945.

The disposal lagoons at Horton have had to be extended as a result of increased loads, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to find farmers willing to have loads deposited on their land. The emptying of pail closets presents special difficulty in that it is rare to find men willing to undertake this repulsive work.

No pail closets are emptied by the Council in Denham, Stoke Poges or Hedgerley, where the occupier empties the pail himself, which, through laziness or lack of space, tends to create considerable nuisance. Arrangements are being made to include the emptying of pail closets in these parishes in the direct labour scheme to commence on 1st April, 1947.

Cesspool emptying in the parish of Iver and refuse collection in Stoke Poges is carried out by contractors, but the major part of Public Cleansing work is handled by the Council's staff of 56 with 9 cesspool emptiers and 7 refuse collectors. An average of 816 cesspools require emptying per month. Over 7½ thousand houses were visited for the removal of refuse during the year and 3,923 loads were carried. Salvage amounted to 248 tons and was sold for the sum of £1,456. The service is a fortnightly one except in parts of the contracted areas where it is more irregular and complaints are numerous. Steps are being taken to initiate a direct labour collection in these areas. In spite of labour, transport and disposal difficulties, the sewage removal work has been maintained at as reasonable a level of efficiency as is possible in the circumstances, but it is highly desirable that this

outworn and archaic system of sanitation should not be allowed to continue in a growing district within 25 miles of London.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

A detailed report of premises visited and the defects found and remedied will be found in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Shops.

No shops other than food premises were inspected during the year.

Camping Sites.

The local authority issued 25 new licences for camping sites and individual moveable dwellings. Details of the applications will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

People living in movable dwellings fall into 3 groups: —

- (a) The holiday maker.
- (b) Displaced persons (i.e., persons unable to find other suitable housing accommodation).
- (c) Gypsies and vagrants.

The last two groups cause many health problems in the neighbourhood and the licensing regulations are too wide to permit of proper control. The Public Health Committee feel that present powers to deal with this vital matter are inadequate and it is hoped that further powers will be available in the near future through a local Act.

Swimming Baths.

The only swimming bath open to the public in this district is the privately-owned swimming bath at Burnham Beeches. Continuous filtration and chlorination is the method used to preserve the purity of the water. Samples were taken during the bathing season and were found to be of a satisfactory standard of purity.

SECTION IV.

HOUSING.

General.

Such statistical figures as are available relating to housing in this area are set out below.

During the year 1946, much difficulty has been experienced in carrying out the necessary repairs of housing defects.

In part this is due to the shortage of material and labour, which permits many loopholes for the evasion of duties by negligent house owners. To get work started and carried through to a satisfactory conclusion requires many visits and much persuasion from this department. There remain in this district 10 Clearance areas, composed of 39 houses and 18 individually unfit houses condemned under the Housing Acts 1936, Sect. 25, 26 & 11, before the war. The outbreak of hostilities prevented demolition from being carried out and the properties have deteriorated further and to make them habitable an expenditure would be required which is utterly disproportionate to their present value.

The housing shortage is such that the occupants cannot be rehoused and we are thus faced with the alternative of either permitting the occupation of insanitary dwellings or of demanding that an owner should expend money, labour and materials on uneconomic repairs of a house due for condemnation. There are, in addition, 13 houses which have become unfit for human habitation, where similar difficulties exist.

In conformity with the direction of the Ministry of Health, no further demolition of houses is taking place, but it is probable, in the near future, that some of these houses will reach the stage of becoming structurally dangerous and action will then have to be taken.

Rural Housing Survey.

At the request of the Ministry of Health, a comprehensive survey of rural houses is in the process of compilation. By Dec. 31st, 1,270 surveys had been completed. In September 1946 permission was received from the Minister to limit the reports to essential matters and to fill in more comprehensive details of houses surveyed as time and staff permit. This plan is being successfully carried out.

Housing of Aged Persons.

An investigation was undertaken by the Medical Officer and Housing Manager into the most satisfactory form of provision of houses for the aged. Visits were made to various homes and hostels for aged people. The conclusions, in brief, arrived at were that the bungalows at present built by this Authority were in every respect satisfactory for people who, though ageing, were not as yet requiring extra nursing care and attention, but that a "cloister unit" scheme for the housing of the aged when they become infirm should form part of future housing schemes.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

A.	1.	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,048
		(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	.....					1,832
	2.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13
B.		Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	106
C.		Action under Statutory Powers during the year.						
		Proceedings under Public Health Acts:						
		(a) Numbers of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	23
		(b) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of formal notice	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22

No houses were demolished under Sections 25, 26 or 11 of the Housing Act.

These statistics are not wholly complete owing to the difficulties experienced in maintaining adequate office records. It is hoped that a fuller and more informative report will be available for 1947.

An account of the work entailed by the "Squatter" invasion will be found in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report

SECTION V.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Particulars of numbers of persons registered as cowkeepers, dairymen and retail purveyors of milk and alterations in the register during the year will be found in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Fourteen farms in the neighbourhood produce Tuberculin-tested milk and supervision and control of these farms is in the hands of the County Council. Eleven farms produce Accredited milk, 4 heat-treated milk and the remainder undesignated milk. Some of the milk supplied goes to provide the neighbourhood but the greater part is collected and some of it is pasteurised and despatched to other parts of the country. It is the duty of this department to keep all premises where milk is produced, bottled or sold under surveillance. There are 101 such premises. During the war years it was impossible for this duty to be carried out, but I am glad to report that since September 1946 a vigorous effort has resulted in the inspection of all such premises in the district.

69 samples of undesignated milk were examined in the laboratory by the Methylene Blue Reducing Test. Of these, 43 were satisfactory and 26 unsatisfactory. The sixteen farms producing unsatisfactory samples were followed up and rechecked until a satisfactory sample was obtained. Seven samples of heat-treated milk were examined by the phosphatase test. All were satisfactory.

Ice Cream.

Three firms in the district are registered for the manufacture of ice cream and ten are registered for the sale of this commodity. There is no statutory standard of purity for ice cream, but ten samples were taken during the year and of these two were deemed to be unsatisfactory. General hygiene measures were recommended to the vendors and the quality of the ice cream improved.

Milk Special Designations Order.

Licences for the sale of designated milk were granted to eight retailers in the area.

Tuberculin tested	7
Pasteuriser's licence	4

Meat and Other Foods.

The action taken under Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924 is described in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report, which also includes an account of unsound food destroyed.

SECTION VI.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Provision of Isolation Hospital Accommodation.

Cases of infectious disease from the Eton Rural District are admitted into the Isolation Hospital at Cippenham, which is controlled by a Joint Board consisting of representatives from the Slough Borough Council and the Eton Rural and Eton Urban Councils. The hospital has its own ambulance and disinfecting apparatus, and clothes and bedding from homes where there has been a case of infectious disease are taken there for disinfection. Cases of scabies can be treated at the Hospital after consultation with the Medical Officer of Health, but they are unable to undertake the treatment of verminous persons, for whom there is no provision in the area. Fortunately the number of persons requiring such attention is small.

Infectious Disease Statistics.

The numbers notified and admitted to hospital can be seen in Table III, together with comparative figures for the preceding eight years.

Table IV shows the monthly incidence of disease. No special point of interest arises here.

In Table V, showing cases of disease occurring in each parish, it will be noted that Iver, with the largest school population in the district, has had the greatest number of cases of Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough and Pneumonia, but Burnham and Datchet bore the brunt of the Measles epidemic.

The incidence of infectious disease per 1,000 of the population as compared with that of England and Wales is as follows:—

		Eton Rural District	England and Wales
Scarlet Fever	.....	1.51	1.38
Diphtheria	.....	0.0	0.28
Typhoid Fever	.....	0.02	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	.....	0.02	0.02
Pneumonia	.....	0.64	0.89
Erysipelas	.....	0.16	0.22

		Eton Rural District	England and Wales
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	.....	0.0	0.05
Smallpox	.....	0.0	0.00
Measles	.....	9.55	3.92
Whooping Cough	.....	1.9	2.28

There have been no cases of Smallpox or Cerebro-Spinal Fever. One case of Diphtheria was notified in an adult male, but on admission to hospital he was found to be suffering from Vincent's Angina. The incidence of Typhoid, Pneumonia, Erysipelas and Whooping Cough were lower than the national rate, while the incidence of Scarlet Fever was slightly higher and measles considerably higher than the national rate.

The only infectious disease to reach epidemic proportions was measles, of which there were 373 cases, the maximum occurring in November. The disease was mild in type, 14 cases only being admitted into hospital. There were no deaths.

The same number of cases (59) of Scarlet Fever occurred this year as last. 38 were admitted to hospital and all recovered.

The only case of Infantile Paralysis occurred at a boarding school in Gerrards Cross on the day following the end of term. The Medical Officers of Health of the areas to which the children had gone were notified and no further cases were reported. The affected child was admitted to Great Ormond Street Hospital.

There were two cases of Enteric Fever during the year, one at Farnham (Typhoid), who recovered, and one at Burnham (Paratyphoid), who was removed to hospital and died. The Farnham case had recently returned from the continent, but the course of infection of the Burnham case could not be ascertained.

Tuberculosis.

There has been an increase in the numbers of recorded cases of Tuberculosis this year. There were 35 cases of Respiratory disease and 13 cases of non-respiratory, making a total of 48 as against 29 in 1945 and 43 in 1944. There were, however, fewer deaths from this disease, the death rate being 0.23 this year and 0.32 in 1945 and 0.45 in 1944. The following table gives the details in age periods of the new cases and deaths.

TABLE III.

	Total Notified 1946	Admit to Hosp.	Deaths	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1936
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	59	38	—	59	103	69	52	48	93	54	40
Diphtheria †	1	1	—	4	4	4	3	7	22	11	19
Enteric Fever	2	2	1	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	—	25	15	26	16	9	2	5	7
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	9	2	—	10	23	30	4	15	19	5	13
Lobar Pneumonia	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	5	5	—	4	4	5	14	6	7	10	9
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	4	3	1	6	6	10	—	—
Poliomyelitis & Encephalitis	1	1	—	5	—	1	2	18	8	—	—
Measles	373	14	—	426	70	592	119	515	354	—	—
Whooping Cough	77	—	—	36	153	71	55	192	16	6	—

† This case of diphtheria was not confirmed on investigation.

TABLE IV.

SHOWING MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarlet Fever	7	8	13	5	8	2	5	—	3	4	2	2
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia	9	—	4	1	3	3	—	—	—	—	3	3
Erysipelas	—	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio-myelitis & Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	1	8	15	5	37	61	167	99
Whooping Cough	3	3	9	11	7	13	12	12	5	1	1	—

TABLE V.

SHOWING CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE OCCURRING IN EACH PARISH IN THE AREA.

	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneu- monia	Erysi- pelas	Cerebro- Spinal Fever	Measles	Whoop- ing Cough
Burnham	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	116	6
Datchet	6	—	—	—	1	1	—	96	3
Denham	4	—	—	1	2	2	—	8	2
Dorney	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—
Farnham	1	—	1	1	2	—	—	14	6
Fulmer	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Gerrards Cross	12	—	—	—	2	—	—	7	2
Hedgerley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Horton	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1
Iver	14	—	—	—	15	1	—	48	49
Stoke Poges	3	1	—	—	1	1	—	20	3
Taplow	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	19	—
Wexham	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	2
Wraysbury	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	1
TOTAL	59	1	2	2	26	5	—	373	77

TABLE VI.

TABLE SHOWING NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1946.

Age Periods	NEW CASES FROM NOTIFICATIONS				DEATHS				NEW CASES FROM DEATH RETURNS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	1	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	6	5	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	3	4	—	2	—	3	—	—	—	2	—	—
35	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
45	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
55	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
	17	12	2	10	3	5	—	1	3	3	—	1

Death rate from Tuberculosis per 1,000 population 23

Disinfections.

The following disinfections of rooms, bedding and clothes were carried out:—

Infectious or Contagious Diseases (without payment).

From cases of Scarlet Fever	.....	.....	.....	55
„ „ „ Typhoid	.....	.....	.....	1
„ „ „ Diphtheria	.....	.....	.....	1
Following death from Tuberculosis	.....	.....	.....	6
Following infestation from lice	.....	.....	.....	1

Non-infectious Diseases (at an agreed fee).

Following death from Cancer	.....	.....	.....	8
„ „ „ Heart Disease	.....	.....	.....	1
„ „ „ Pneumonia	.....	.....	.....	2
„ „ „ Sepsis	.....	.....	.....	2

Total 77

ETON RURAL DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the Year 1946.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I submit herewith my annual report on the work of your Sanitary Inspectors.

The report is by no means as detailed as I could wish, but the late war left an aftermath of conditions which, as yet, have not been resolved and which cause expenditure of time which might have been used in expanding the work of the department.

An instance of this is the housing position generally, which in this district has given rise to increases in camping other than of a temporary character. This culminated in the middle of the year in the practice of "squatting" in camps, buildings and huts formerly occupied by the services, N.F.S., etc.

Many Londoners evacuated during the war have shown a reluctance to return to town life. While this is appreciated it adds to the housing difficulties. Another factor is the proximity of Slough and its attraction to people from other parts of Great Britain and Ireland as an industrial centre. Many of these people are disposed to settle within our boundaries.

The unsatisfactory position in regard to the control of camping, particularly in regard to persons of the gypsy fraternity, has been brought to your notice and although public opinion does not at present

appreciate the necessity for more effective control by joint public health and town and country planning, it is hoped that the Council will continue to press a matter of particular and peculiar importance in this district. In the case of gypsies, adequate education both of adults and children would be an added help towards their control.

I take this opportunity of recording my appreciation of the work of my fellow colleagues (Sanitary Inspectors Messrs. Marsden, Hodgkins and Forrest), the Rodent Officer, and Office Staff, which has been of a high standard throughout the year.

Your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Hodgkins, is to be congratulated on the preparation in his spare time of the very excellent Guide Book of the Eton Rural District which was issued during the year and was well received by persons residing both in and out of the district, public organisations, etc.

The ready co-operation and assistance of the Clerk and the Officers of other Departments has been a material factor in contributing to the effective work of the Department.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Medical Officer of Health for her unfailing support, and guidance where necessary, throughout the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. W. G. CORNER,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

(a) Meat.

1. Slaughtering of animals for meat is carried out centrally for this area at the Government Slaughterhouse at Gerrards Cross. This arrangement has been in force since the outbreak of war and continued during 1946. The Ministry of Food are responsible for the maintenance and control of the slaughterhouse. At the end of 1945, a block in the Council's drainage system was thought to be caused by the passage of solid matter from the slaughterhouse into the drain. In the early part of this year, the Ministry of Works put into effect the suggestions made by this Council and the drainage system from the slaughterhouse was reorganised so that accidental blockage of this nature cannot recur.

2. DETAILS OF MEAT INSPECTION.

	Cattle ex. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number slaughtered	1143	285	741	3520	282*
Number examined	1143	285	741	3520	282*
DISEASE EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.					
Whole carcase condemned	nil	nil	1	10	7
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	153	31	2	39	49
Percentage of the number inspected, affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis	13.4	10.9	.4	1.4	19.9
TUBERCULOSIS.					
Whole carcase condemned	1	12	nil	nil	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	113	61	2	nil	1
Percentage of the number inspected, affected with Tuberculosis	9.97	25.6	.3	nil	.4
* Including 256 pigs killed on one farm and suspected of swine fever.					

(b) Condemned Foods other than Home Killed Meat.

82 lbs. of imported beef.

416 lbs. of corned beef.

88 lbs. of bacon.

3 tins of assorted tinned meats and meat and vegetables.

55 stones of wet fish.

3 boxes of smoked fish.

1 box of fish cakes.

1 case (360) of imported eggs. (Category 2).

12 lbs. of dried egg powder.

18 lbs. of butter.

2 lbs. of margarine.

327 tins of milk.

1 sack of potatoes.

2 jars of pickles.

122 packets of pudding mixtures.

5½ lbs. of chocolates and sweets.

34 loaves of bread.

21 bags of flour.

Miscellaneous.

Tinned foods. 206 tins, jars, etc.

Disposal of Condemned Food.

The greater part of food condemned on inspection is returned to producers through trade channels. The remainder is used for animal feeding.

Camping Sites.

During the calendar year 28 applications were made for licencing of caravans under the Public Health Act, 1936, Section 269.

	SITES		INDIVIDUAL CARAVANS	
	New	Renewals	New	Renewals
Applications made	2	4	19	4
Granted	2	3	16	4
Refused		*1	3	

* An appeal was made to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction against a Refusal by the Council to grant a licence in respect of land to be used as a site for movable dwellings and the Council summoned the applicant for using the site during a period following a previous application and Refusal.

The hearings were heard the same day and in the case of the Appeal this was allowed and in the other case a conviction was recorded.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

No. of licences renewed 9; new licences to slaughterers, 1.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Entries in register.

Cowkeepers	51
Dairymen and Retail Purveyors (with premises within the district)	90
Retail Purveyors (with premises outside the district)	7
Retail Purveyors (bottled milk only)	5
Dairies and Milk Shops	77
Cowsheds	80

Complaints.

Housing defects	.....	.....	.....	.....	81
Cesspools	.....	.....	.....	.....	58
Drainage blocks	.....	.....	.....	.....	21
Refuse Accumulations	.....	.....	.....	.....	17
Gypsies	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Offensive smells	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
Water	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Dustbins	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Insanitary Houses	3

Infestations.

Mosquitos	3
Bugs	5
Flies	1
Wasps	1

Miscellaneous.	25
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Rodent Destruction.

During the year 1946 the Rodent Officer has carried out the following work: —

Surveys	.....	.....	.....	1,658	
Baitings	.....	.....	.....	1,027	} 1,932
Gassings	.....	.....	.....	780	
Trappings	.....	.....	.....	125	
Dead rats found	.....	.....	.....		1,048
Dead mice found	.....	.....	.....		104

The largest hauls of rats were from the wire dump at Taplow and from the salvage depots at Stoge Poges and at Tatling End.

The methods used are those advised by the Ministry of Food. Sausage rusk is the main vehicle used as bait and Zinc Phosphide and Red Squill are the poisons largely employed. These poisons are of little attraction to animals other than rats. Arsenic is not used by this department owing to the slight risk involved.

Petroleum Licences.

Number of new licences issued	.....	.....	.....	7
Number of licences renewed	.....	.....	.....	62

Report on Squatters Camps.

Before the summer months of the year 1946, the practice of “squatting” was practically unknown. The first hint of the coming

invasion in this district occurred in June, when three families from Albert House, Slough, took possession of some huts in an empty Army camp at Slough Road, Iver Heath. At the Council Meeting in July, I reported: "I have to-day been told of two other instances where camps have been left unoccupied and apparently unattended and unless the Army Authorities tighten up control, I can foresee similar instances of unauthorised occupation occurring in the near future." This prediction unfortunately proved to be only too true and before the end of the year, 12 camping sites had been invaded as under:—

	Families	Persons
Five Points, Iver Heath	7	26*
Grange Farm, Wexham St., Wexham	16	50
Burnham Beeches V.R.D.	9	30
do. do. P.O.W.	6	14
A.A. Site, Polo Ground, Datchet	29	105
do Dorney Common, Dorney	22	67
Hawkers—Rear of Homewood Works, Iver.	5	19
N.F.S. Hut, Southern R. Yard, Datchet		
Springfield, Taplow	1	3
Dropmore Estate, Burnham	16	56
A.A. Site, Chandlers Hill, Iver	14	30

* These numbers varied from time to time and are approximate.

In the first few months following this unprecedented situation, the local authorities were instructed to provide water, drainage and light for the occupants of these huts. These duties were undertaken by the Sanitary Inspectors and proved to be of considerable difficulty as the designers of the camp's emergency systems of water supply and sewage disposal were difficult to trace. The camps were then offered to the Council by the Ministry of Health as temporary dwelling places during the period of housing shortage. A full inspection was undertaken and eight of the camps were recommended to the Council for adoption. The organisation was then handed over to the Housing Manager, although this department still continues to exercise Public Health surveillance.

Conference Attendances.

I have attended the following conferences during the year:—

1. The Royal Sanitary Institute Congress.
2. Smoke Abatement.
3. Manufacture of Ice Cream.

